

This issue's highlight



Funding available for arts and mental health organisations

The Baring Foundation has opened the first funding call in its new Arts programme theme of Arts and Mental Health.

This funding is for established organisations in the UK that focus **solely on offering creative opportunities to people of any age living with mental health problems using the skills of professionally trained artists.**

We expect to award grants of £12-15,000 depending on the level of demand.

Deadline: **18 August at 12pm Midday.** The **Application Guidelines and form are on our website.**

(Photo by Ali Wright. Courtesy of Outside Edge Theatre)



Arts and Mental Health

A message from the Green Ribbon Festival for Welsh Arts & Mental Health organisations

This year, the Mental Health Foundation Wales is launching an inaugural Green Ribbon Festival which will showcase how the arts can help prevent mental illness in Wales. This will include the work of arts organisations, creative practitioners and artists, looking at examples of projects that have supported people with their mental health.

The festival organiser, Mark Smith, is looking for organisations to get in touch, initially to see whether they might be able to provide an article for the event's website along with any images or videos. He would also welcome conversations about how organisations and practitioners could get involved more widely. Mark can be contacted at msmith@mentalhealth.org.uk

The Baring Foundation is supporting the Green Ribbon Festival.



Participatory arts in an age of physical/social distancing

A huge **THANK YOU** to all those organisations who have written blogs for us about how they are continuing their work and supporting participants remotely during lockdown:

- **Creative Alternatives, Merseyside**
- **Fallen Angels Dance Theatre (Chester), Restoration Trust (Norfolk), Magic Carpet Arts for Health (Exeter) and Shallal (Cornwall)**
- **British Ceramics Biennial**
- **Soundcastle**

François Matarasso, one of the Baring Foundation's trustees, has written a powerful piece about the **longer term impact of social distancing on the work of participatory arts** organisations. And yet they are needed more than ever for what the Royal College of Psychiatrists has called the potential 'tsunami' of mental illness to come.

We also have lovely contributions from **Comedy Asylum in Leicester** which helps people in contact with Leicester mental health services develop their comedy potential, **ARC in Stockport** who host social work students to work alongside their creative practitioners, **The Restoration Trust in Norfolk** which uses

heritage, arts and culture to support people who experience mental illness.

ALL OUR ARTS BLOGS ARE HERE!



Arts and Older People



COVID-19 and creative ageing organisations: please tell us about your experiences

We are also planning a report on how the creative ageing sector responded to COVID-19, looking at its impact on participants, artists and organisations.

If you are an organisation that works on creative ageing, we would be really grateful if you could **fill in this survey** about your experiences. There are two £250 prizes on offer which will be randomly selected from the entries we receive.

Additionally, at the start of lockdown we compiled a list of some of the creativity activity resources for care homes that we knew about – those and many more people have told us about **can be found here**. They may also be useful for care homes looking to take part in National Arts in Care Homes Day (see next item below).



National Arts in Care Homes Day 2020

National Arts in Care Homes Day will again be on the **24 September** this year with the theme of Creative Communities.

The team are asking care homes, community partners and cultural organisations to share positive stories about arts and creative activities in care homes, and are especially interested to hear how activities have been developed and adapted during the incredible difficulties care homes have faced during COVID-19.

Where there is capacity, care homes will also deliver events on 24 September. **Visit their website for more information.**

The Day is jointly funded by the Baring Foundation and the Rayne Foundation.

INFO AND ACTIVITY IDEAS HERE



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